

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01

TRSE-00 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OIC-02 /087 W

-----241653Z 078721 /42

P R 241455Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6054

INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 0658

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, PFOR, SHUM, RW, BY, XA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CONFERENCE ON RWANDA CIVIL RIGHTS

REF: (A) STATE 60181, (B) KIGALI 319

1. QUITE APART FROM CURRENT USG PREOCCUPATIONS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS IN MANY CONTEXTS, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SERIOUS AND SYSTEMATIC ANALYSIS OF, AND ATTENTION, TO, THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN AFRICA HAS BEEN TOO LONG NEGLECTED AND IS NOW INCREASINGLY NECESSARY. BOTH REFTELS MAKE THIS POINT PERSUASIVELY. YET, I MUST STILL WEIGH IN STRONGLY AGAINST THE HOLDING OF ANY SUCH COLLOQUIUM IN KIGALI.

2. AM I ALSO AGAINST MOTHERHOOD? NO, BUT I AM FOR FAMILY PLANNING AND INDIVIDUAL PRECAUTION BEFORE MOTHERHOOD IS ENTERED INTO, AND THE SAME PRUDENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS OUGHT TO BE APPLIED BEFORE WE LAUNCH INTO SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT IN RWANDA.

3. IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE OF A SEMINAR IN KIGALI (OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN EAST AFRICA) THAT WOULD NOT DEPART FROM THE LOFTY THEORETICAL AND SCHOLARLY PLANE OF REVIEWING AFRICAN SOCIAL

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INSITUATIONS AND CUSTOMARY LAW RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS BY DESCENDING INTO THE MULTITUDE OF SPECIFIC CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS THAT BESPATTER THE REGIONAL LANDSCAPE. EVEN IF THE MISDEEDS WERE ONLY DREDGED UP WITH THE ALLEGED AIM OF OFFERING CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF THE PROBLEMS ON THE CONFERENCE'S AGENDA, THERE WOULD BE BOUND TO BE EXTENSIVE POLEMICS AND COUNTER-RECRIMINATIONS. IF EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN SCHOLARS WERE THE

CHIEF AND MOST VOCAL "EXPERTS" IN THESE DISCUSSIONS, AFRICAN RESENTMENTS WOULD BE ALL THE MORE SHARP.

4. OF COURSE, I AM THINKING SPECIFICALLY ON THE BURUNDI-RWANDA NEXUS, WHICH IS TROUBLED ENOUGH JUST NOW, AT LEAST ON THE RWANDAN SIDE (KIGALI 320). BUT UGANDA WOULD INEVITABLY BE ENTERED INTO THE FRAY (WITH AMIN PERHAPS AGAIN TAKING OFFENSE THEREAFTER AT RWANDA AND STARTING HARASSMENTS), AS WELL AS RAW ETHNIC ISSUES IN SOUTHERN SUDAN, POLITICAL REPRESSION IN EASTERN ZAIRE, TRIBAL INFIGHTING (MURDER OF LEADING PLITICIANS) IN KENYA, GENOCIDE IN BURUNDI, PAST TUTSI SUFFERING AND CURRENT NUMERUS CLAUSES IN RWANDA, ETC.

5. WE WELL REMEMBER OFFICIAL BURUNDI RESENTMENT AT THE RELATIVELY MODERATE COLLOQUIUM ON BURUNDI ETHNIC ISSUES WHICH TOOK PLACE IN BRUSSELS IN DECEMBER 1975 WITH AMERICAN SCHOLARLY PARTICIPATION. WHILE THE PRESENT REGIME ACKNOWLEDGES THE HUTU-TUTSI PROBLEM AS ITS PREDECESEOR NEVER DID, I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD REACT INDIFFERENTLY TO THE SPECTACLE OF BURUNDI'S NATIONAL ILLS BEING EXPOSED AND DISSECTED IN KIGALI.

6. I SUSPECT, AS DOES AMBASSADOR CRIGLER IN PARA 5, REFTEL B, THAT AMBASSADOR KARUHIJE MAY WELL NOT HAVE CLEARED THIS PROJECT IN KIGALI. NETHERTHELESS, EVEN IF HABYARIMANA OR NSEKALIJE HAVE SOMEHOW APPROVED, I WOULD STILL TRY TO TURN THEIR COMMENDABLE INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS INTO SUPPORTING A SIMILAR COLLOQUIUM IN NEW YORK. WITH THAT LOCUS, SPONSORSHIP BY THE INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE QUIET OR EVEN PUBLIC USAID BACKING, PLUS A STRONG AMERICAN SCHOLARLY INPUT WOULD SEEM PERFECTLY NATURAL. MOREOVER, THE LARGE CORPS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFRICAN DIPLOMATS IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS SOME AFRICAN STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS IN U.S. UNIVERSITIES COULD MAKE A REAL CONTRIBUTION AWAY FROM INFLAMMATORY ENVIRONMENT OF AFRICAN CAPITAL. IF RWANDA REALLY WANTS TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH SUCH AN EFFORT, IT COULD BE ACCOMMODATED WITH ALISTING AS CO-SPONSOR. MARK

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## Message Attributes

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